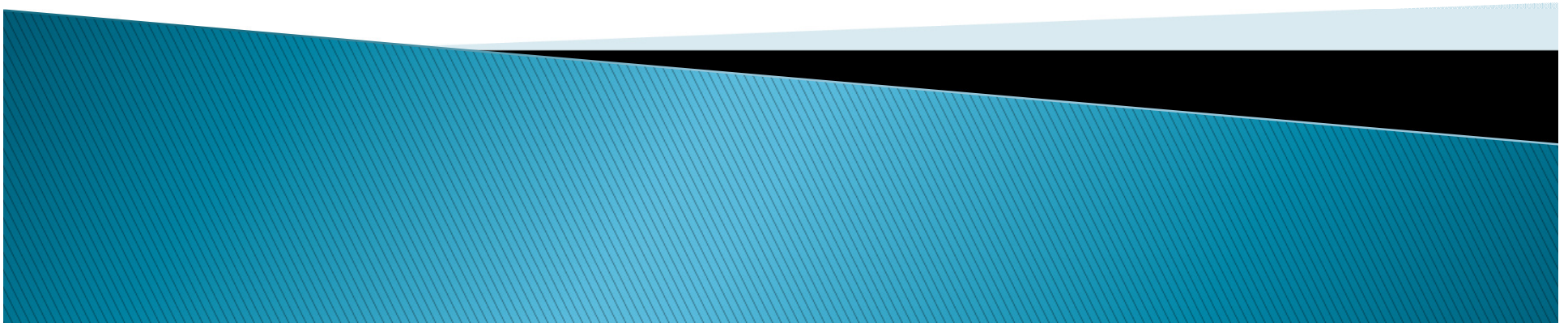


Low Income Weatherization

Karen Moe
Minnesota Community Action Partnership



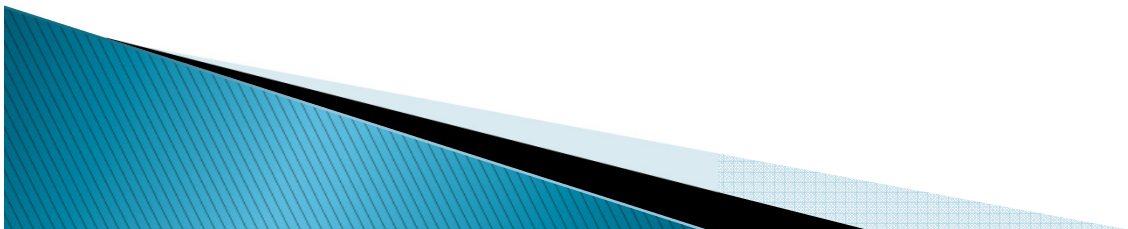
Community Action Agencies

- ▶ Minnesota Community Action Agencies
 - 27 CAAs in MN
 - MN Community Action Partnership (state association)
- ▶ Mission
 - Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.
- ▶ Programs
 - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
 - Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
 - Other CAA Programs – Head Start, Transportation, Senior Dining, Financial Literacy, etc.



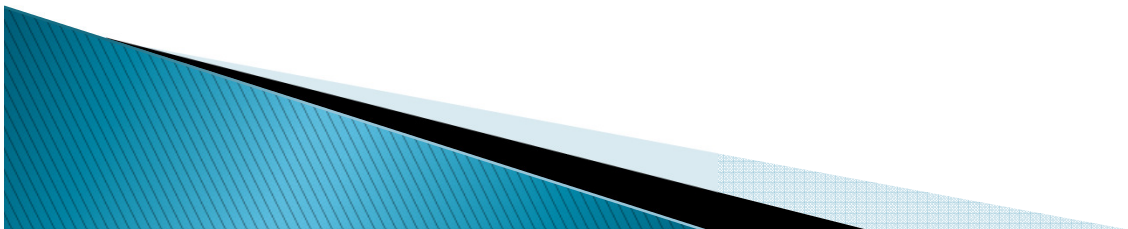
Weatherization Assistance Program

- ▶ The mission of WAP is “to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.”

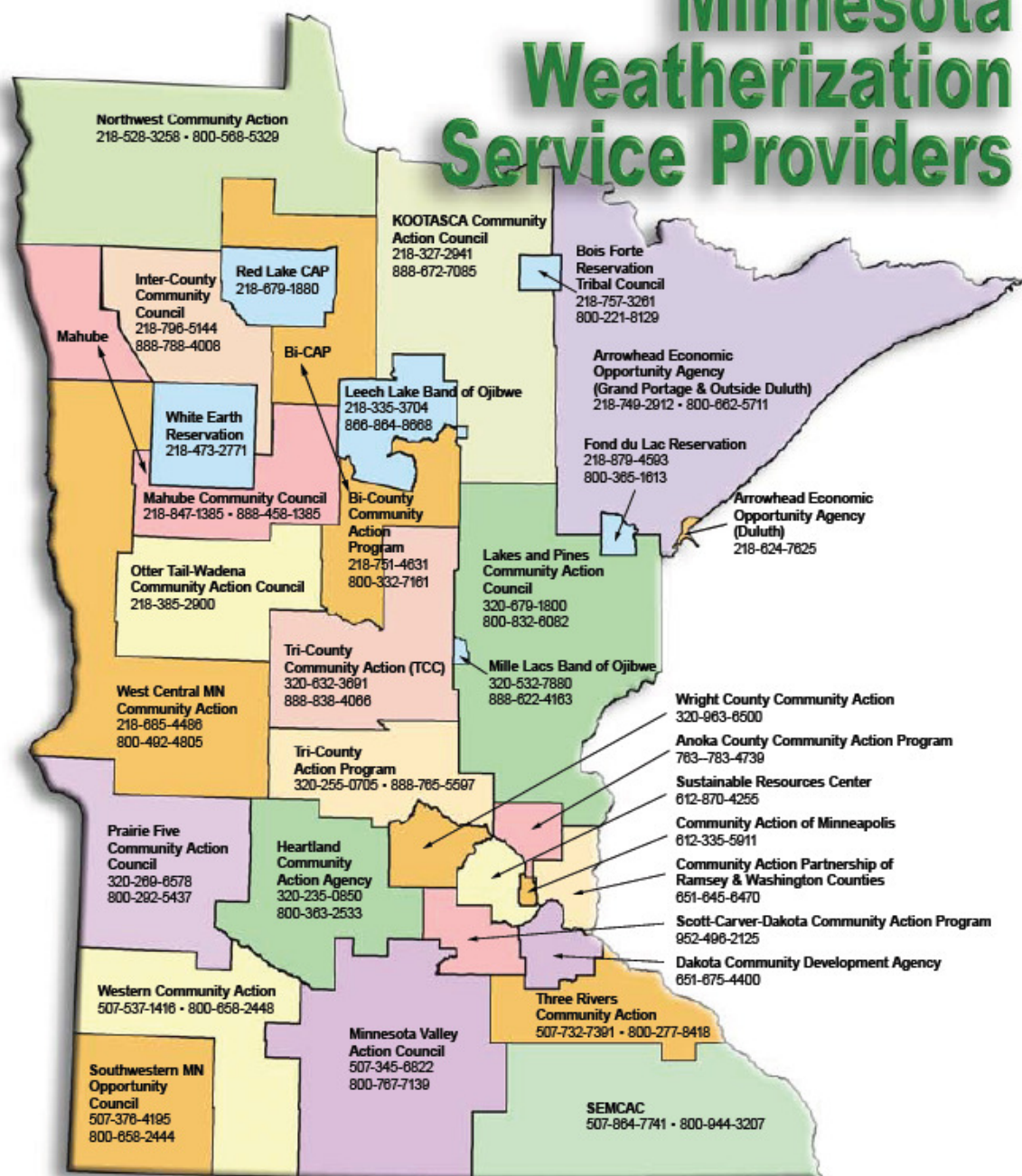


Weatherization Assistance Program

- ▶ MN WAP Service Providers
 - 24 CAAs
 - 1 nonprofit (SRC)
 - 1 county (Dakota County)
 - 4 tribes
- ▶ Income qualified
- ▶ Target populations
 - Elderly, disabilities, children
 - MN includes high energy users

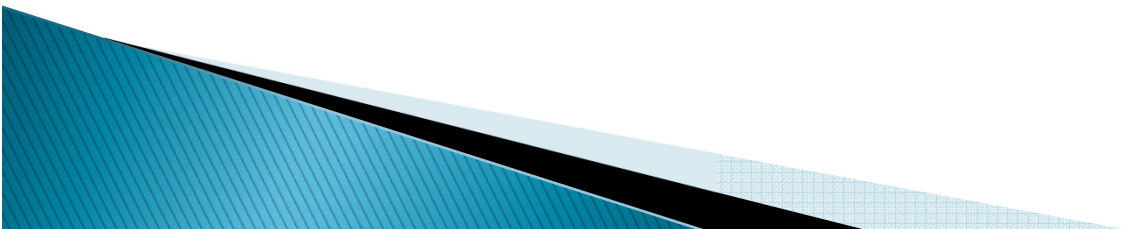


Minnesota Weatherization Service Providers



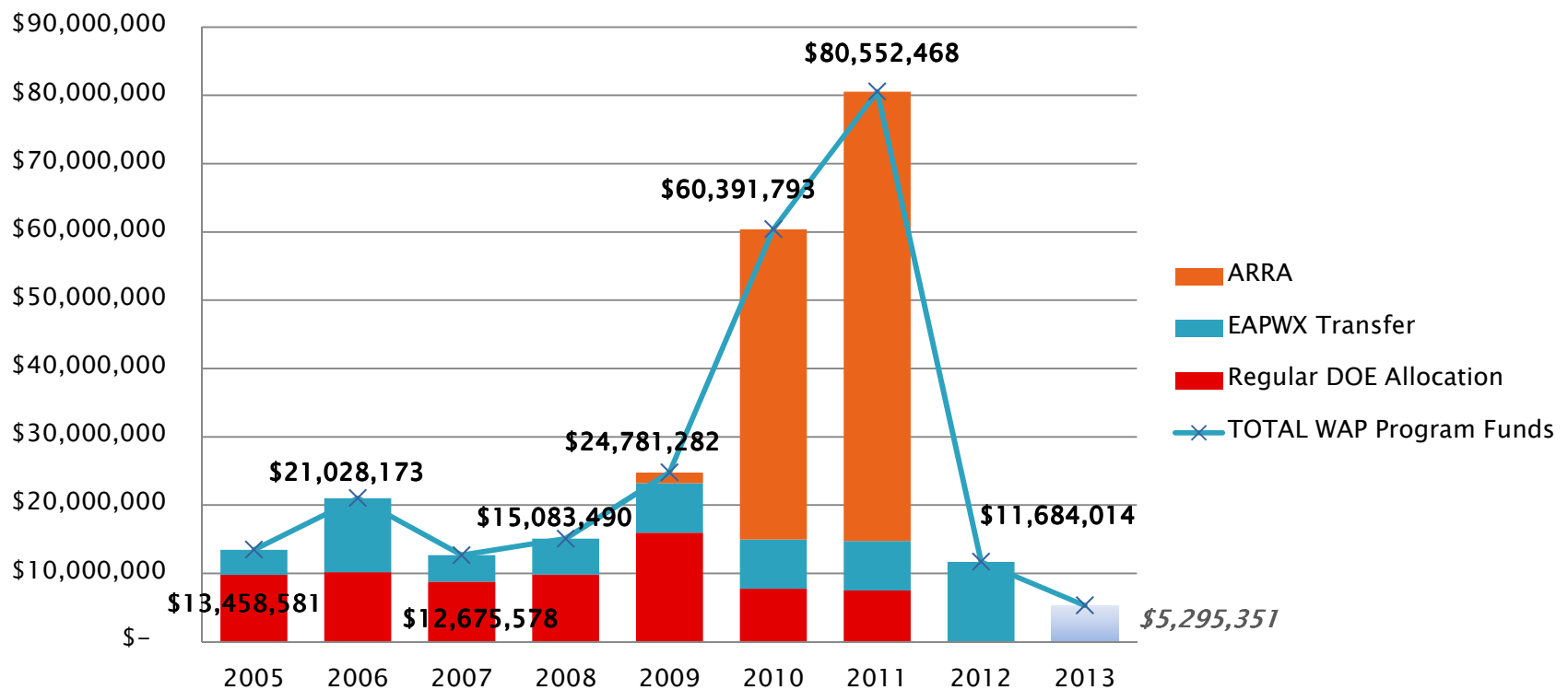
Weatherization Assistance Program

- ▶ Weatherization Assistance Program Funding
 - US Department of Energy (USDOE)
 - Regular
 - American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009
 - US Department of Health & Human Services via EAP transfer
 - MN Conservation Improvement Program



Weatherization Assistance Program

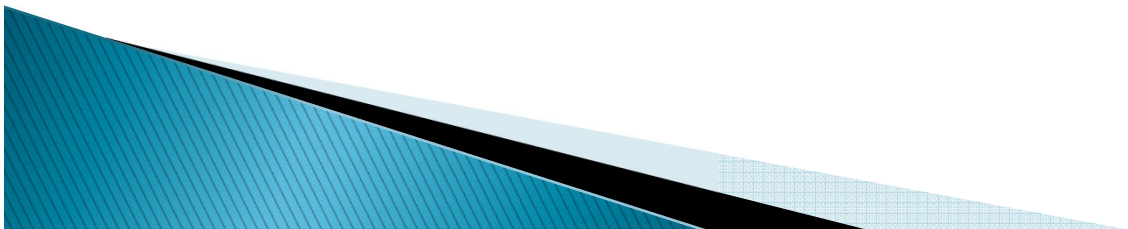
MN Weatherization Assistance Program Program Year Funding 2005–2012



CAP-Utility Partnership Examples

▶ CAP & Utility

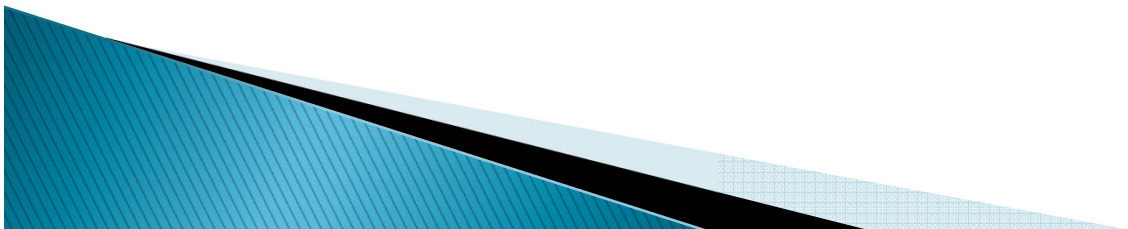
- Contract – clear, specific, straight forward
 - CAPs know what they can & cannot do
- Meet annually
 - Review the contract
 - Get everyone on same page
 - Seek input from CAP
- Billing invoice easy to follow
- Utility markets the program in partnership with CAP
- Open to unusual, non pre-approved situations



CAP-Utility Partnership Examples

▶ CAP & Multiple Utilities

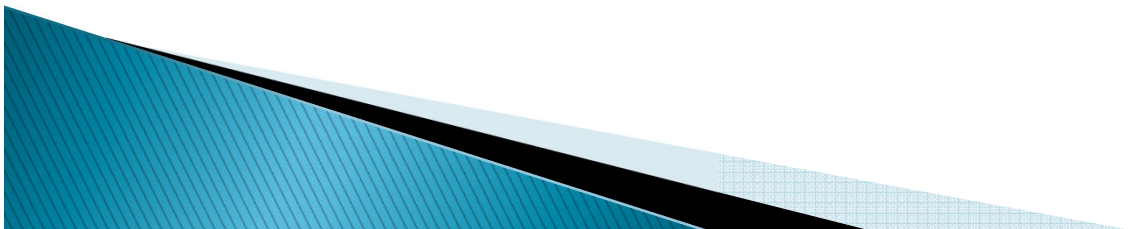
- Utilities use standard contract
 - Minor differences, but generally common programs
 - Lessen administrative burden on CAPs
- Annual meetings
 - In person or via telephone
- Open to non pre-approved situations
 - Flexible to specific needs of homeowners/communities
 - Support SPs making decisions in the field, supporting common end goal



CAP–Utility Partnership Examples

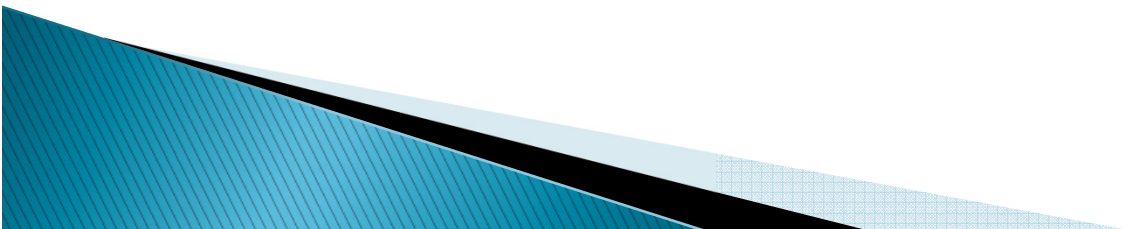
▶ Multiple CAPs & Utility

- Utility use standard contract; same program in all service territory
- Weatherization–Lite
 - Light bulbs
 - Aerators
 - Engine block timers
 - Water heater pipe wrap and tank wrap (depending on warranty)
 - Freezers
 - Refrigerators



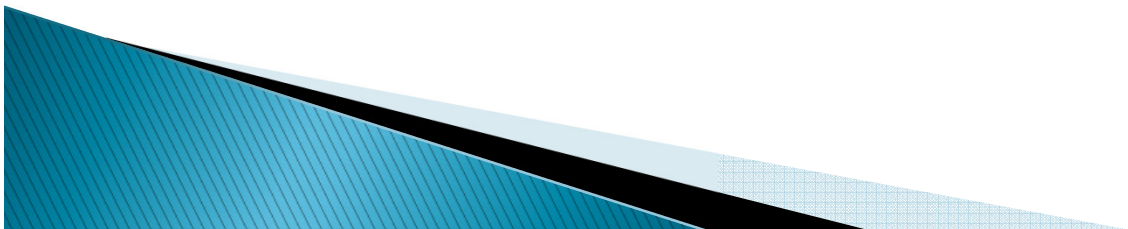
CAP–Utility Partnership

- ▶ What makes partnership work?
 - Contracts
 - Annual check-in
 - Billing system
 - Shared marketing
 - Flexible response



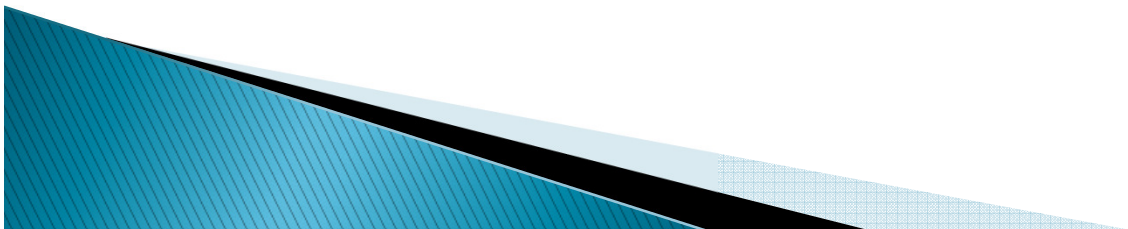
CAP–Utility Partnership

- ▶ What poses a challenge to partnership?
 - Contracts
 - Multiple contracts that all differ
 - Highly constricted contracts
 - Timeliness of contracts
 - Delayed contracts decrease time for CAPs to identify households & spend money
 - Electric versus natural gas
 - Billing System
 - Complicated
 - Pre-approval



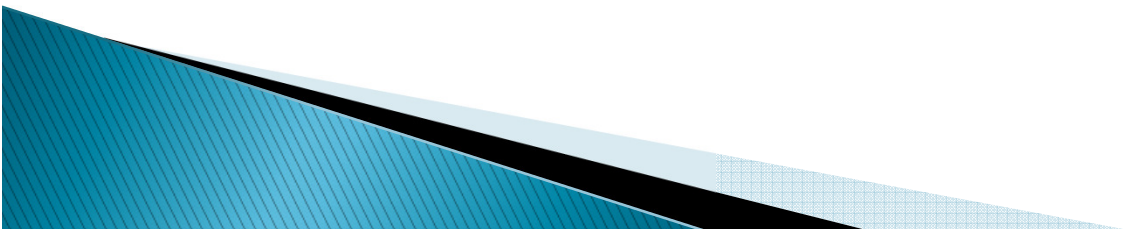
CAP–Utility Partnership

- ▶ What poses a challenge to partnership?
 - Administrative costs
 - Pressure to manage few resources, in conjunction with other programs
 - Program Support costs not supported by CIP
 - Auditors, equipment
 - Health & Safety measures
 - Difficult to do right by customer with no H&S



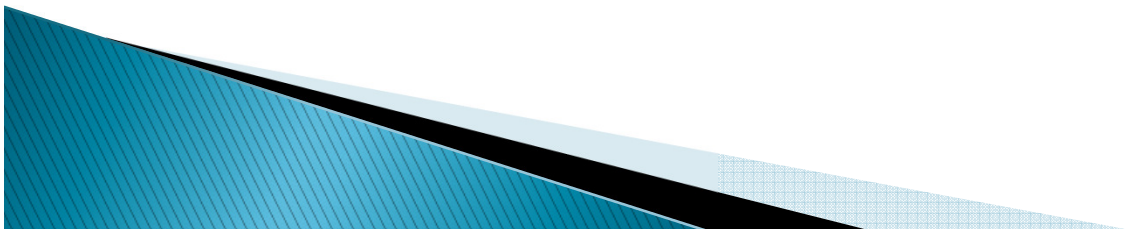
CAP–Utility Partnership

- ▶ What poses a challenge to partnership?
 - WAP funding insecurity/fluctuation
 - CIP not designed as a standalone program
 - Increased burden on DOE dollars
 - Decreased pool of households for CIP



CAP–Utility Partnership

- ▶ What can CAPs do better to help utilities meet requirements?
- ▶ What opportunities are there for programs in era of decreased funding?
 - Weatherization
 - Weatherization–Lite
- ▶ What role can MinnCAP, Commerce, or CERTS play to assist CAPs and utilities?



Thank You!

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